GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AYURVEDA,YOGA & NATUROPATHY,UNANI,SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH)
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1054
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2015
Traditional Knowledge Digital Library
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Will the Minister of AYURVEDA,YOGA & NATUROPATHY,UNANI,SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has put in place Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) to protect ancient and traditional knowledge of Indian Medicinal System and heritage of the country;

(b) if so, the salient features and the present status of implementation thereof;

(c) the total cost of the project and the expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) the impact and benefits arising out of this project; and

(e) the further measures being taken by the Government to protect ancient and traditional knowledge of indigenous people in the country from bio-piracy?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA,
YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY
(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)
(a): Yes. The Ministry of AYUSH (the then Department of ISM&H) has established Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) in collaboration with Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) for prevention of grant of patents on non-original inventions by International Patent Offices like European Patent office, United States Patent & Trademark office, Japan Patent office etc. on Indian Systems of Medicine such as Ayurveda, Unani, and Siddha.
(b): As per the information provided by the CSIR, TKDL consists of 2.93 lakh medicinal formulations of Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha available in public domain, in five international languages namely English, Japanese, French, German and Spanish. To facilitate the protection of country's traditional knowledge, access to TKDL has been provided to International Patent offices (IPOs) under International Agreement. In addition, pre-grant opposition on patent applications along with prior art evidences from TKDL are submitted on a regular basis.
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(c): As per the information provided by the CSIR, the implementing agency of the TKDL project, total cost incurred on the project is Rs. 20 Crores approximately.
(d): As per the information received from CSIR, till date TKDL has been successful in preventing the grant of wrong patents in 220 cases.
For further facilitating the prevention of grant of wrong patents at International Patent Offices (IPOs), 10 International Access Agreements on TKDL have been concluded with United States Patent & Trademark Office, European Patent Office, Canada Patent Office, Germany Patent Office, Japan Patent Office, United Kingdom Patent Office, Australia Patent Office, Malaysia Patent Office, and Chile Patent Office including Indian Patent Office.
(e):
1. Besides medicinal formulations from Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha; work to include Yoga techniques from ancient texts in the TKDL has already been initiated.

2. Apart from bio-piracy, to prevent misappropriation of Yoga, Ministry of AYUSH through Sangeet Natak Akademi (the nodal organization of Ministry of Culture) filed nomination of Yoga at UNESCO from India to include Yoga in the representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

3. Indian Patent Office had also brought out Guidelines for Processing Patent Applications relating to Traditional Knowledge and Biological Material. These Guidelines were brought out to help Patent examiner to analyze what constitute novelty and inventive step in Traditional Knowledge (TK) related invention.

4. As per the information provided by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was enacted with the objectives of conservation of biological resources, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources.
Section-41 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 requires every local body to constitute a Biodiversity management Committee (BMC)

within its area. According to Rule 22 of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 the main function of the BMC is to prepare People's Biodiversity Register in consultation with local people. The Register shall contain comprehensive information on availability and knowledge of local biological resources, their medicinal or any other use or any other traditional knowledge associated with them. â€¦â€¦â€¦.